

Central Dudley Area Committee – Tuesday 19 January 2010

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

**Safer Routes to School 2009/10 Castle High School, Dudley –
Proposed Restriction of Waiting Order in Priory Road, Dudley**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Area Committee's views on proposals for the introduction of a Restriction of Waiting Order in Priory Road, Dudley.

Background

2. Arising from concerns in connection with dropping off and collecting pupils from Castle High School, a Safer Routes to School initiative has been included in the Minor Works Programme that would provide a suitable drop off and collection point in the vicinity of the Castle High School's rear access off Priory Road, Dudley.
3. This initiative should also reduce the levels of parental parking that currently takes place immediately outside the school's main entrance in St. James's Road that causes restrictions to traffic flow reducing the available highway to a single lane.
4. At its meeting on the 9th June 2009, the Committee supported the general objectives of the Safer Routes scheme, and the preliminary proposals currently being considered include for a length of approximately 50m of restricted waiting in Priory Road that would come into effect from Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 4:00pm.
5. The length of Priory Road affected by the proposals lies between its junctions with Ednam Road and The Broadway, on the north-western side of the road. The extent of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order would begin at the end of the existing prohibition of waiting from the junction with Ednam Road to a point in the vicinity of the school rear entrance, so that the effectiveness of the drop off point in Priory Road would not be compromised by the on-street parking which currently takes place in this area throughout the majority of the working day.
6. The proposals are shown in more detail on plan number HT2816/3 attached as Appendix B and as part of the initial consultation process they were duly submitted to both Local Ward Members and the Police between 27th August 2009 and 18th September 2009.

7. Following verbal support from the Ward Members and written support being received from the Police, the proposed Traffic Regulation Order was formally advertised on-street and in the local press between 19th October 2009 and 13th November 2009.
8. 10 letters of objection have been received to the proposed Order, and the reasons cited for objection are summarised in Appendix A.
9. Copies of the written representations received are available for inspection by the Cabinet Member for Transportation.
10. Having regard to the objections received and the objectives of the scheme, which have also been supported by Castle High School, the Area Committee is requested to consider that whilst the implementation of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order would result in the loss of approximately 50m (circa 7 spaces) of on-street Parking in Priory Road for limited periods of the day, this would be offset by the potential benefits of reducing congestion in the area generally, specifically during school times, as well as providing improved levels of safety for those parents and children wishing to use the Priory Road access to Castle High School.
11. It should also be noted that, if the proposed Order is implemented as advertised, this would still retain approximately 130m of on-street parking in the remaining section of Priory Road between the school entrance and its junction with The Broadway.

Finance

12. The costs associated with the introduction of the Order would be met by the 2009/10 Minor Works Capital Allocation.

Law

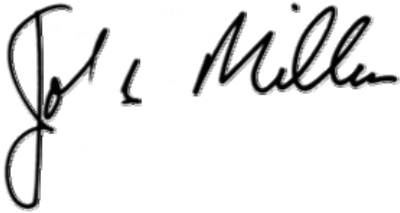
13. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
14. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive to or is incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.

Equality Impact

15. The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy whilst also seeking to introduce measures that will be of direct benefit to children.
16. The Council's Road Safety and Travel Awareness Officers liaise directly with the School's Council's, which includes representatives from the schoolchildren themselves, in the preparation of School Travel Plans and the identification of measures that could be introduced as part of a Safer Routes to School initiative.

Recommendation

17. That the Area Committee's views on the proposed Safer Routes to School scheme for Castle High School, Dudley, be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Transportation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Millar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

JOHN MILLAR
Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

Objection letters received in response to on-street and press advertisements for the proposed Order.

Summary of Objections to the Proposed Restriction of Waiting Order, Priory Road, Dudley

- i) Loss of approximately 50m of currently unrestricted on-street parking.
- ii) A perception that the current problems are caused by parents driving their children to and from school, and that as such it is unfair to remove a length of unrestricted on-street parking to cater for them.
- iii) An opinion that cars currently parked on-street are not causing an obstruction or restriction to access.
- iv) An opinion that the proposed Order seeks to generate more income for the Council by forcing more drivers to park on the nearby Priory Road car park.
- v) Concerns that the removal of a length of on-street parking provision may result in drivers having to park further away from their place of work, resulting in a greater threat to the health and safety of persons whilst they walk to and from their vehicles.